

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming device comprising:

a communicating portion connected to a network and capable of performing bi-directional communications;

5        an image forming portion forming images on a recording paper based on image data received via the communicating portion, the image forming portion having a plurality of functions;

10        a settings image data providing portion controlling the communicating portion to provide the network with settings image data in a HTML format, the settings image data indicating a setting image used for performing settings related to the plurality of functions possessed by the image forming portion;

15        an edit image data providing portion controlling the communicating portion to provide the network with edit image data in the HTML format, the edit image data indicating an edit image used for editing the settings image data; and

20        a settings image data editing portion receiving, from the network via the communicating portion, an edit instruction that corresponds to the edit image data, and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction.

25        2. An image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the edit image data includes settings item

inclusion-setting data used for setting whether or not to include, in the settings image, a setting item used for performing a setting for each of the plurality of functions, and

5            wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the edit instruction that corresponds to the settings item inclusion-setting data, and edits, based on the edit instruction, the settings image data to selectively include the setting item for each function in the settings  
10 image.

3. An image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the edit image data includes layout setting data used for setting an arrangement how the setting item for each of the plurality of functions is to be selectively  
15 arranged in the settings image, and

          wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the edit instruction that corresponds to the layout setting data, and edits, based on the edit instruction, determines an arrangement how the setting item for each  
20 function is to be selectively arranged in the settings image.

4. An image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the settings image data providing portion includes:

          a storage portion storing a plurality of sets of settings image data; and

25            a selecting portion receiving, from the network via

the communicating portion, a selection instruction specifying one desired set of settings image data, and selecting the desired set of settings image data from the storage portion.

5           5. An image forming device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising an identification data storing portion storing a plurality of sets of identification data in one to one correspondence with the plurality of sets of settings image data,

10           wherein the edit image data providing portion includes a determining portion receiving a set of identification data, via the communicating portion from the network, and referring to the identification data storing portion to determine whether the received identification data set  
15 matches an identification data set that corresponds to the desired set of settings image data specified by the selection instruction, the edit image data providing portion providing the edit image data to the network when the determining portion determines that the identification data  
20 sets match.

6. An image forming device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

          a displaying portion sequentially displaying, in a predetermined order, all the setting items that can be  
25 included in the settings image data; and

a setting portion setting whether to include, in the settings image, each setting item displayed by the displaying portion, and

wherein the settings image data editing portion edits  
5 the settings image to include therein those setting items that have been set by the setting portion to be included in the settings image.

7. A network system comprising:

a network;

10 an image forming device including:

a communicating portion connected to the network and capable of performing bi-directional communications;

and

15 a personal computer including:

a communicating device connected to the network and capable of performing bi-directional communications;

20 a display device displaying an image based on image data in a HTML format received from the image forming device via the communicating device;

an instruction inputting portion enabling a user to input various instructions; and

25 a transmitting portion controlling the communicating device to transmit the instructions inputted

via the instruction inputting portion to the image forming device via the network,

wherein the image forming device further includes:

5 an image forming portion forming images on a recording paper based on image data received via the communicating portion from the personal computer, the image forming portion having a plurality of functions;

10 a settings image data providing portion controlling the communicating portion to provide via the network the personal computer with settings image data in the HTML format, the settings image data indicating a setting image used for performing settings related to the plurality of functions possessed by the image forming portion;

15 an edit image data providing portion controlling the communicating portion to provide via the network the personal computer with edit image data in the HTML format, the edit image data indicating an edit image used for editing the settings image data; and

20 a settings image data editing portion receiving, from the personal computer via the network and the communicating portion, an edit instruction that corresponds to the edit image data, and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction,

25 wherein the transmitting portion in the personal computer controls the communicating device to transmit to

the image forming device a request to send the edit image data when the instruction inputting portion receives the user's request to edit the settings image, the edit image data providing portion in the image forming device  
5 controlling the communicating portion to transmit the edit image data to the personal computer upon receipt of the request, the display device in the personal computer displaying the edit image based on the edit image data, and  
wherein the transmitting portion in the personal  
10 computer controls the communicating device to transmit to the image forming device the edit instruction that the user inputs in the instruction inputting portion while viewing the edit image on the displaying device.

8. A network system as claimed in claim 7, wherein  
15 the edit image data includes settings item inclusion-setting data, the display device in the personal computer displaying the edit image including a setting-item inclusion-setting portion based on the settings item inclusion-setting data, the instruction inputting portion receiving the user's  
20 setting-item inclusion setting instruction indicating his/her desire whether or not to include, in the settings image, a setting item used for performing a setting for each of the plurality of functions, and

wherein the settings image data editing portion  
25 receives the setting-item inclusion setting instruction, and

edits, based on the setting-item inclusion setting instruction, the settings image data to selectively include the setting item for each function in the settings image.

9. A network system as claimed in claim 7, wherein  
5 the edit image data includes layout setting data, the display device in the personal computer displaying the edit image including a layout setting portion based on the layout setting data, the instruction inputting portion receiving the user's layout setting instruction indicating his/her  
10 desired arrangement how the setting item for each of the plurality of functions is to be selectively arranged in the settings image, and

wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the layout setting instruction, and edits, based on  
15 the layout setting instruction, determines an arrangement how the setting item for each function is to be selectively arranged in the settings image.

10. A network as claimed in claim 9, wherein the instruction inputting portion enables the user to input,  
20 into the layout setting portion, his/her desired setting items in an order desired to be arranged in the settings image.

11. A network as claimed in claim 9, wherein the instruction inputting portion enables the user to input,  
25 into the layout setting portion, arrangement data indicative

of his/her desired arrangement, in which his/her desired setting item is to be arranged in the settings image.

12. A network system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the personal computer includes a plurality of personal computers, a plurality of sets of identification data being  
5 assigned to the plurality of personal computers,

wherein the settings image data providing portion in the image forming device includes:

a storage portion storing a plurality of sets of settings image data in one to one correspondence with the  
10 plurality of computers; and

a selecting portion receiving, from one personal computer via the network, a selection instruction specifying one desired set of settings image data, and selecting the  
15 desired set of settings image data from the storage portion,

further comprising an identification data storing portion storing a plurality of sets of identification data in one to one correspondence with the plurality of sets of settings image data,

20 wherein the edit image data providing portion includes a determining portion receiving a set of identification data, from the personal computer via the network, and referring to the identification data storing portion to determine whether the received identification data set matches an  
25 identification data set that corresponds to the desired set



of settings image data specified by the selection instruction, the edit image data providing portion providing the edit image data to the personal computer when the determining portion determines that the identification data sets match.

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